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HISTORY OF BREED'S

(COMMONLY CALLED)

BUNKER'S HILL BATTLE,

FOUGHT BETWEEN THE

PROVINCIAL TROOPS

AND THE

BRITISH,

JUNE 17, 1775.

BY OLIVER MORSEMAN, ESQ.

A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.

SACKET'S HARBOR:

PRINTED BY TRUMAN W. HASKELL,

1830.

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Boston

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TO THE PUBLIC.

ANY thing connected with the history of the birth day of a Nation will be cordially received by the Patriot and Statesmen. The record of the war of the revolution, and especially the first contested battle, cannot fail to swell the bosom of the veteran soldier, and to excite feelings of gratitude to that God who has thus long preserved his life in war and in peace; and while he reads the unvarnished, though faithful history of the ever memorable battle of BUNKER'S HILL, from the trembling hand of a fellow sufferer in that eventful day that "tried men's souls," may he be able to look back with heartfelt pleasure upon those youthful days when he dared to breast the cannon's mouth in defence of his home, his fire side and country, to achieve the heaven born blessings and privileges now enjoyed as the result of his toils, his hardships and privations; and with a humble reliance and well grounded hope on the Lord Jesus Christ, be prepared to unite with the kindred spirits of a WASHINGTON, a WARREN and all those worthies who have gone to that "undiscovered country from whose borne no traveller returns" in praising their Creator God, and of enjoying the high and unbounded felicity of the redeemed of the Lord.

The author of this little work has been anxiously waiting and expecting to see a more full and perfect account of that important epoch by a more able pen, but the frost of nearly seventy winters, his trembling limbs and tottering frame remind him that soon he must go to the land of our fathers; and having taken minutes of the battle at the time, from which this history is drawn, he ventures to lay it before an indulgent public, with the hope that it may in some degree cheer the declining days of the remnant of that Spartan band who gave birth to a Nation of Freemen; and perhaps serve as a beacon to the youth, in leading them to usefulness and honor, impress the mind of every American with the price that has been paid for the liberties we enjoy; confidently relying upon their patriotism and valor to defend and transmit them unimpaired to the latest generations. And here I must be permitted to remark, that while we have (as a nation) been prosperous and happy—from thirteen thinly inhabited and dependent Colonies, we have become twenty-four populous and independent States, highly blessed of heaven, and the wonder and admiration of the world, the boast of Republicans and the dread of Tyrants, and while we hear the high sounding and reverberating strains of

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LIBERTY, INDEPENDENCE, WEALTH AND GLORY, from the lips of the youthful champion, enjoying the honors, the luxuries and pleasures of independence and plenty, the painful visage of the war-worn soldier, decrepit with age and infirmity, clad in rags—dejected and miserable—destitute of the ordinary comforts of life—poor and penniless—homeless and forlorn, appears, and with pale cheeks and a faltering voice proclaims a *nation's ingratitude!* “I have served my country in a trying hour—I have met the enemy and they are ours, I have risked my life for the liberties of the people, and thank God, America is free. But I have ruined my constitution—my health and strength are gone. *I received my pay in continental money and it was good for nothing,* and here I am, dependant upon the cold hand of charity—I have asked the government for a Pension to feed and clothe myself and my aged wife in our declining years, but it is refused, the witnesses of my services are in their graves or not within my knowledge, and thus we are left to languish, to suffer and to die!!!”

A few years more and all will be gone—Then O happy Americans, Freeman and Republicans, hasten to bestow the too long delayed justice to your fathers and benefactors.

In presenting to the public this history, I have no desire or expectation of acquiring fame, in the last days of my life, but an ardent desire to perpetuate the dawn of that day that emancipated these happy and United States from a foreign yoke, and gave us a name among the nations of the earth, and to keep alive that national feeling, and gratitude to that God who has thus far upheld us, and with the earnest prayer that he will continue to be our God, and that we may be his people, both here and hereafter. Such are my objects; and if any beneficial result is produced, to this or future generations, it will be the height of my ambition for this work.

Battle of Bunker's Hill, &c.

THE battle in Charlestown, Massachusetts, which was fought between the British and Americans on the 17th of June 1775, was an event of great interest and importance. It was the first real trial of strength and courage between the troops of the parent country and the provinces. The affair at Lexington and Concord on the 19th of April preceding, could hardly be called a battle.—The battle of Breed's Hill was a rash affair on the part of the Americans; it was so considered at the time by many judicious men in the Provincial Congress, and Committee of Safety, though the majority of the latter did finally sanction the enterprise. Even Warren, ardent and resolute as he was, considered it a desperate undertaking. No reasonable man could have supposed that the Americans would maintain their position so near Boston, where the British had 10,000 regular troops, and where they had command of the waters of Charles River by their ships of War. Had the latter been as successful, as they had reason to calculate, they would, with the troops they had at Charlestown, have driven the Americans from their works, (which afforded but a partial shelter, almost destitute as they were of cannon as well as of powder,) and pursued them to Cambridge, where General Ward was stationed with the main body of the provincial troops; and who would probably, have been routed by a force so powerful. The plan of taking possession of the heights of Charlestown, was adopted in consequence of intelligence that the British General intended to occupy that position, and also the highland on Dorchester Neck, on the south of Boston; in order to extend his situation and to take advantage of possessing those commanding places, to attack the Provincials at Cambridge or Roxbury, whenever they might think proper. It was not until the 15th of June, that the Americans determined to occupy the former. Why more time was not allowed for preparation, is not known. It is probable there was an apprehension that the British intended to take immediate possession. The detachment ordered upon this most hazardous enterprise, consisted of about 1000 men, under the particular and immediate command of Col. William Prescott, of

Pepperell, in the county of Middlesex. Far the greater part of the detachment belonged to Massachusetts, and chiefly to that county, and included a part of Col. Ebenezer Bridge's and a part of Frey's regiments, with about 120 from General Israel Putnam's regiment, (from Connecticut) with Captain Knowlton as their chief officer. Putnam accompanied this detachment, and according to the testimony of several respectable witnesses who were in the expedition, had the superintendence of it, or gave direction and advice, which, even if he attended as a volunteer must have had influence. That he had the official and authorised command, may be difficult to prove by direct evidence. The orderly book of General Ward is silent on the subject. Putnam was very active as well as a brave officer, and had seen much military service in the war between France and England. Colonel Gridley was with the detachment and acted as engineer. This detachment of provincial troops proceeded to the peninsula, of Charlestown, late in the evening of the 16th of June. They paused on Bunker's Hill, but after some consultation, they concluded to advance to Breed's Hill which lies nearer Boston by about 120 rods, and is about the same distance from the banks of Charles River. It was nearly midnight when they began to throw up a redoubt (as had been previously ordered by a council of war at Cambridge) for a partial defence against the British; who, they could not but believe would soon attack them: As a fortress of which they were to retain permanent possession, they could not have proposed it; for without more cannon, and a greater supply of ammunition, they must have known that they could not long hold out against the superior and formidable force of the British in Boston. Such was the opinion even of the sanguine and heroic Putnam, expressly given by him to General Warren, when he came on the field just before the enemy first advanced to the attack. In the course of the night when the works were in forwardness, and the men industriously engaged in completing them, General Putnam returned to his quarters in Cambridge. But early in the morning on hearing the cannonade of the British, which began soon after the dawn of day from their fort at the north part of Boston, and their ships of war in Charles River, he repaired again with great alacrity to Charlestown. During the night, Col. Prescott attended by Maj. Brooks, proceeded to the margin of the river to ascertain whether the British were alarmed and were preparing to attack them; but all appeared quiet. At an early hour of the morning, Prescott sent to General Ward at Cambridge for provisions and reinforcements. His men were fatigued and the works were not finished—No answer and no supplies were received. At nine o'clock Major Brooks, as a confidential of-

ficer, was despatched to head-quarters with an urgent request for more supplies and men. Notwithstanding this message required the greatest possible despatch, he was obliged to travel on foot. No horse was to be procured. It was nearly ten o'clock when he arrived at Cambridge; a consultation was immediately had between Gen. Ward and others, as to the propriety of sending more troops from the main body at that place. It was believed the British would avail themselves of the circumstance, of a great portion of the provincials being at Charlestown, to make an attack on Cambridge by passing directly over the bay from the western part of Boston, disperse the men retained there, and destroy the scanty stores collected, which would prove an irreparable disaster. It was considered necessary therefore, to retain a large force at Cambridge; notwithstanding the perilous situation and urgent request of Putnam and Prescott. The remainder of Putnam's regiment, stationed in the easterly part of Cambridge, near Inman's Farms (so called) were very desirous of marching to Charlestown; but General Ward believing their service would be more important in checking the British, should they come out from Boston and make an attack upon head quarters: at a late hour, however, they were permitted to proceed to Charlestown for the support of their fellow citizens there engaged. These were commanded by Captains Chester Coit and Clark, and reached the rail fence, where Knowlton was stationed just as the engagement began.

At an early hour in the forenoon, Gardner's regiment was ordered to proceed down the Charlestown road near the foot of Prospect Hill, and there to remain till further orders should be given them. In this situation they remained until after one o'clock, when seeing the enemy's boats pass over to Charlestown, the Colonel consulted with his officers, and it was agreed to march immediately to the heights of Charlestown. The author belonged to Col. Asa Whitcomb's regiment, stationed east north east from Cambridge College, in fair view of Boston, Charlestown, Breed's and Bunker's Hill; about one o'clock, seeing Gardner's regiment march, our regiment appeared anxious to go; our Colonel was absent, the Major said that he had orders not to leave the post, but notwithstanding, if part of said regiment would turn out, he (the said Major) would go: there was something like one hundred turned out and marched immediately to Charlestown common, near the neck, when cannon balls came across from the Glasgow Frigate of thirty-six guns, and three floating batteries on the other side of the neck, in the Mystick river and began to destroy the board fences and houses, then the Major halted his men, and expressed himself

in this manner, "*we have come without orders, now every man return to the camp;*" Capt. Benjamin Hastings a man nearly seventy years of age, who had served in the French war, stepped out and said *boys* (true enough for we were boys that turned out) *you that are not afraid, follow me, for I will go on to the Hill or die in the attempt.*" Thirty-four followed the old hero, and arrived in time, Captain Hastings and his little Spartan band, was placed at the rail fence, north of the small redoubt. In the mean time it had been concluded by General Ward to send to Medford for some New Hampshire militia, under Colonels Stark and Reed, who were ordered to Bunker's Hill for a support to the men already there. It was between ten and eleven o'clock when the messenger was despatched from Cambridge with these orders. The brave New Hampshire men soon prepared to obey. But it was about one o'clock when they left Medford, and must therefore have been two o'clock or after, when they reached Bunker's Hill. They were in season, however, to repair to the line on the left of the redoubt at the breastwork and rail fence, where the Connecticut troops under Captain Knowlton were, by the special direction of General Putnam already stationed, when the attack was first made by the enemy. Putnam, rode to Bunker's Hill and even to the neck, or still further, to hasten on the reinforcement which were requested and expected as soon as the British landed at Morton's Point, met the New Hampshire troops, and entreated their immediate presence at the lines, with which they as readily complied. He also probably directed or advised the position most suitable for them to take.— Parts of Little's regiment, sent on from Cambridge and Gardner's already mentioned, arrived on Bunker's Hill just before, or about this time and were directed chiefly to the rail fence, but some to the redoubt. At this time also, or a few moments earlier, (for it was just before the British made the first attack) Judge Winthrop saw Putnam and Warren conversing together a little in the rear of the eastern part of the breastwork, on the left of the fort. A soldier in Knowlton's company also states, that just as the battle began, he saw Gen. Putnam earnestly engaged rallying some men who were retreating towards Bunker's Hill, and that after he had drove back as many as he could, he rode towards the redoubt. In the course of the forenoon, notwithstanding the heavy fire of the British from their ships of war and their artillery in Boston; a redoubt was thrown up by the Americans of about 3 rods square, and a breastwork on the left of it extending down the eastern declivity of the hill about 70 feet. East of this breastwork and a little northerly, in the rear of it, was the rail fence at which the Connecticut men were

first placed, and afterwards the New-Hampshire troops and two companies of the Connecticut forces, as well as some belonging to Massachusetts who came on about the same time. The rail fence stretched almost to Mystic River, and an effort was made by the Connecticut force under Knowlton, to render it something like a protection, by adding another fence in the vicinity, and throwing up some grass recently mown, against it. Colonel Prescott commanded in and at the redoubt, which had just been finished under his inspection—He seems to have had the sole command of this important post, while Putnam was urging on the recruits and inspecting the troops in other parts of the Peninsula. Not only was the detachment under Capt. Knowlton ordered to the rail fence on the left, but most of the fresh troops which came on the field as reinforcements, were directed to take the same position. The redoubt was sufficiently furnished with men to act with effect though deficient in cannon, ammunition and bayonets, to enable them to repel the British, who were superior both in number and equipments. A part of Little's regiment seems to be the only troops ordered to the redoubt, in addition to those stationed there at an early hour. On the left at the breastwork and rail fence, a large force became indispensable. The movements of the British, soon after they formed for the attack, fully indicated their purpose to march a large detachment near the margin of Mystic River, at a considerable distance northeast of the redoubt, and then to make an attack in the rear of it. A great portion of their troops were so disposed of as soon to render this plan most evident; while another party of them prepared to advance directly in front of the redoubt. Prescott was in full preparation to receive them at the fort, and the attention and activity of Putnam were put in requisition to meet them on the left, and to prevent their advancing in that direction. Accordingly we find from all the testimony given at the time, and subsequently, that Gen. Putnam was making every possible effort to forward fresh troops to that quarter. For this purpose soon after the British landed, he rode to the Neck and beyond, and urged the scattered companies and parts of regiments which he found, to proceed with the greatest despatch to the rail fence, and to the breastwork on the left of the fort. The British were some time in determining upon the particular mode of attack, and in forming, after they had decided. It was between 2 and three o'clock when they first advanced to the bloody contest. This was done in two separate bodies, one directed towards the redoubt on Breed's Hill, and the other towards the rail fence on the left and near Mystic River. The British began the fire upon the provincials when at a considerable distance, and

without much effect. But the latter reserved their fire by the express orders of Putnam and Prescott, no doubt by previous agreement, until the enemy had approached within about eight rods, when they poured forth a most destructive volley of small arms, and continued it for some minutes, (as rank after rank of the British succeeded) by which a great number of the assailants were cut to pieces, while comparatively few of the Americans received any injury. The British troops were soon thrown into confusion, and returned to the margin of the river, where they first landed. The British officers soon rallied their men and formed anew for a second attack, during which time, Gen. Putnam rode to the neck, to press on such of the militia as might have advanced thus far, and some of whom were reluctant to march nearer to the place of slaughter. The incessant firing of a sloop of war, and of several floating batteries in Charles River, rendered it extremely dangerous to pass on to the peninsula. Putnam rode over the neck repeatedly to show them that he was without fear, and that it was possible to pass unhurt. The British soon advanced a second time, as before, a portion towards the redoubt and others to the breastwork and rail fence on the east. The Americans were prepared to receive them with equal resolution and at the first assault, and orders were again given by Putnam, Prescott and other officers, to withhold their fire until the enemy should approach even nearer than before. The enemy were again repulsed with great slaughter.— They soon shrunk from the tremendous fire of the provincials, and a second time returned to the banks of the river. The British soldiers were discouraged and were compelled to make another attack by repeated orders and threats, and not then until a reinforcement arrived from Boston. The Americans, on the contrary, were elated by their repeated success, though the officers must have perceived the difficulty of long maintaining their position, unless they could receive a new supply of ammunition, and large reinforcements of men. The third attack was not made by the British without considerable delay. They sent to Boston for more troops, which were forwarded with all possible despatch, accompanied by several officers of high rank and great military skill and experience. During this interval, it appears that General Putnam again rode to the neck and a short distance beyond, where some provincials had assembled from the neighboring towns. Some of these were unwilling to proceed, as it was very dangerous passing the neck, and

as they expected the troops on the heights must soon retreat.— At this time also, unfortunately, a part of the artillery, from a defect in the apparatus of their guns or some great error in judgment, retired from the field of action, which served to discourage the militia from advancing. These men belonged to Massachusetts, were imperfectly organized, and unaccustomed to military discipline. The resolute and brave, however, readily hastened to the relief of those who had already been long engaged. Having urged the advance of these troops, Putnam returned to those he had left at the lines, with the great despatch for which he was distinguished, and arrived some time before the reinforcements came up to encourage the men, and to direct their movements on the renewed attack of the British, which was then expected. In the third and last attack the enemy conducted with much deliberation. They were convinced of the great importance of their field artillery, and particular care was taken to have it accompany the troops. It was taken to the eastern declivity of Breed's Hill between the rail fence and the breastwork, where it was directed along the line of the Americans, at the latter position, and a part pointed also into the opening or gate-way of the redoubt, which was on the north eastern corner. The redoubt was now attacked also on the southeastern and south western sides by the enemy with fixed bayonets. At the same time a column of British advanced against the Provincials posted at the rail fence, on the extreme left. Those in the redoubt were destitute of bayonets and their powder also was soon expended. In this situation, after having made a most resolute resistance for some time, but without a possibility of maintaining their ground, and in the hope of saving the lives of his brave men, the intrepid Prescott ordered a retreat. To effect this, surrounded as he was by the British, was a difficult task. The troops on the left were ordered to cover them as they retired; and this important service was performed with ability and despatch. Putnam and Prescott having braved the enemy as long as hope remained, were very active in conducting the retreat. Though many of the Americans were killed or wounded by the British troops who pursued them to Bunker's Hill; yet a great degree of regularity & order was maintained by the attention and activity of the officers, assist-

ed by some fresh troops who arrived at this time. This was between six and seven o'clock. General Putnam proposed to make a stand and fortify; but the plan was too desperate to meet the approbation of any other officer. He wished at least to *face the enemy and give them one more fire before they left the Peninsula*. But the men were too much exhausted, and too destitute of ammunition to comply with his proposal. The provincials therefore passed over the neck, and some posted themselves at Winter, and Prospect Hills within a mile and a half of Bunker's Hill, and others proceeded to Gen. Ward's head quarters at Cambridge, a distance of about three miles. Just at the moment the word was given to retreat, General Warren who was near the redoubt received a musket ball in the head and immediately expired. He was President of the Provincial Congress and of the committee of safety at this time, and three days before, had been appointed a Major General of the Massachusetts troops. On this occasion he was merely a volunteer; his ardent and patriotic feelings led him to the scene of danger as soon as he heard of the threatened attack. He was among the most eminent of the many brave men who, at that critical period were ready to sacrifice every thing for the liberties of their country.—The slaughter on this occasion was very great. The British had nearly 1500 killed and wounded, and the Americans estimated theirs at about 350. Some statements have given different numbers, but the above may be considered as very near the truth. Governor Gage's account, prepared soon after the battle, gave only 3000 in the engagement and 1100 killed and wounded. But it was his policy to make the most favorable report possible. From the most accurate calculation, it is evident that the whole number of the British engaged, could not have been less than 4500, (some suppose about 5000) and soon after the battle it was reported and generally believed, that the whole number of the enemy killed and wounded, amounted to 1492, ninety of which were commissioned officers. Of the provincials 200 were wounded, and 136 killed and missing, 30 of the latter were afterwards known to have returned to their respective homes the night following the battle. The principal officers killed or mortally wounded, in the provincial regiments, were General Joseph Warren, Colonel Thomas Gardner, who survived a few days, Lieutenant Colonel Parker, who was mortally wounded and died the week after in prison at Boston; and Majors M'Clary and Moore. The number of men killed and wounded in the several regiments engaged were as follows: In Prescott's 42 killed and 28 wounded; in Bridge's 16 killed and 30 wounded; in Frey's 15 killed and 31 wounded; in the detachment

from Putnam's regiment consisting of about 250, 15 were killed and 30 wounded; of the two New Hampshire regiments under Stark and Read, (the latter of which was not full) 15 were killed and 45 wounded; in Little's 7 killed and 26 wounded; in Brewer's 7 killed and 11 wounded; in Gardner's 6 killed and 7 wounded; in Whitcomb's 5 killed and 8 wounded, and a few belonging to Nixon's and Gerrish's regiments. In reference to the officers who particularly distinguished themselves on this ever memorable occasion by their activity, their zeal and courage, we may justly name General Israel Putnam of Connecticut, Colonels William Prescott, Ebenezer Bridge, James Frey, and Moses Little, Colonels John Stark and James Read, both of New Hampshire; Gen. Pomeroy, Lieutenant Colonels John Robinson and William Buckminster, Major Henry Wood, (General Warren, Colonel Gardner, Lieutenant Colonel Parker and Majors M'Clary and Moore, who were slain or mortally wounded in the action) Captains Knowlton, Chester, Coit and Clark, Lieutenants Grosvenor, Keys, Dana and Hills, all of Connecticut, Captain Henry Dearbon of New Hampshire, and Captains Burnham, Trevett, Ford, Walker, Bancraft, and Hastings, Ensign Thomas Miller, and many others exhibited great proofs of patriotism and courage, whose names it is not in our power particularly to mention. The survivors of that brave and heroic band of freemen who made such a resolute stand against the British troops on this occasion, which are recollected are General Henry Dearbon, Major John Burnham, Capt R. Trevet, Judge Grosvenor, General John Keys, General Benjamin Pierce, Deacon Thomas Miller, Major Daniel Jackson, Captains B. Dana, John Brazier Esq. and Mr. Timothy Thompson.

The Americans justly considered this defeat a great disaster, but they did not despond. It taught them the courage of their men, and the necessity of greater discipline and preparation. The want of system and military subordination was fully perceived. To this in part, was attributed the final failure of that glorious enterprise. It would be unjust perhaps to accuse any one then in high civil or military authority, of inactivity or want of spirit and zeal. The contest was a glorious one to the Americans, for unprepared and unfurnished as they were with military stores and implements; a different result could not have been justly expected. That greater reinforcements were not provided, was perhaps, the fault of no individual. But had they been furnished, the British would probably have been checked and repulsed in their third attack, as they were in the two first. The enemy could boast only of having obtained possession of the field, for which they contended.—

But it was not without double the number of men to those whom they engaged. And they were convinced by melancholy facts, that the provincials were too brave to be conquered, or to be attacked except by superior numbers, and with every advantage of a competent artillery and a full supply of military stores. Though the American troops remained for some months almost wholly without cannon, and deficient to an alarming degree of the essential article of powder, the British made no attack upon their lines nor attempted any offensive operation. There are different accounts of the number of British troops engaged in this battle; some have stated them at 3000 and others 5000. General Gage in his official account said there was about 2000. By comparing several early statements, it appears that somewhat more than 3000 first landed at Charlestown, and made two attacks upon the Americans, and that about 1000 passed over afterwards, as a reinforcement, and joining those of the first detachment who survived, made the third attack when the redoubt was carried. The whole number of provincials engaged did not probably much exceed 2000. Soon after the affair at Lexington and Concord, of the 19th of April, the "minute men" (so called) and others to the number of about 15000 assembled in the vicinity of Boston, many of them were without efficient and complete equipments. In powder they were very deficient, and as to artillery, it was little more than a name. Of these men nearly 10,000 belonged to Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, and Rhode Island furnished the remainder. General Ward was appointed commander in chief by the provincial Congress of Massachusetts. General Thomas was second in command, and was stationed at Roxbury. Washington had not taken the chief command; he was appointed about the middle of June by the Continental Congress and arrived at Cambridge on the 3d of July, when the troops were soon organized, as a national army. It is probable however, that before he took the command, all the troops collected, acknowledged General Ward as chief, and that there was an understanding to act in concert, and with some regularity and system; though the organization of the troops was not perfect. A contrary supposition would imply extreme inattention or want of military knowledge, both in the committee of safety and in the officers assembled, several of whom, had been in the campaign of 1756, 1757, and 1758. It is said by those who were then living and in a situation to know all the circumstances connected with the enterprise, that it was undertaken at the particular instance of General Putnam, and that Colonel Prescott requested to have the post in which he so bravely distinguished himself. Putnam ex-

pressed the opinion that something must be done (unprepared as they then were for offensive operations) to employ the men and accustom them to military service. He conducted the expedition to Noddle's and Hog Islands in Boston harbor, the last of May, to prevent a large quantity of sheep from falling into the hands of the British, in which he discovered great activity and courage; and on the 10th of June he marched from Cambridge to Charlestown with most of the provincial troops, collected at the former place. This was done in full sight of the British in Boston, and with a view to excite a spirit of emulation and courage in the militia who were assembled in arms for the defence of the country. Though called General, he had then the command only of a regiment, which was the case with several general officers in Massachusetts at that time. The other Connecticut troops were stationed at Roxbury. Judge Grosvenor (supposed to be now living) was a Lieut. in the corps, and was wounded the next day at the rail fence. The statement lately made by him is as follows: "I was one of the detachment from Gen. Putnam's regiment, posted at Cambridge. On the evening of the 16th of June, Capt Knowlton with four subalterns and 120 men were detached and marched to Breed's Hill with others of Massachusetts. General Putnam was with us, and attended to laying out the ground for the redoubt. He returned to Cambridge that night and attended early the next morning. He was on the Hill repeatedly during the day and particularly at the posting of the troops in the redoubt, and at the arm of the ditch, leading north towards Mystic River, and at the rail fence adjoining the river. Colonel Prescott was constantly with the troops, but General Putnam was backwards and forwards during the day, to bring in reinforcements. He commanded and ordered the troops engaged, with regularity and satisfaction so far as I know." A direct line from Copp's Hill, at the northern part of Boston, where the British had a fortress, is about a half a mile from Breed's Hill in Charlestown. No reason can be given why the Americans chose to fortify Breed's, rather than Bunker's Hill, but that it was nearer to Boston. Bunker's Hill is much more elevated and would have been more difficult to attack by the enemy. Brooks was Major of Bridge's regiment. He commanded a battalion of minute men in the affair at Concord on the 19th of April. During the war of the revolution, he held a Colonel's commission, and was repeatedly distinguished for acts of bravery, and was held in high estimation as a correct disciplinarian. Afterwards he was Major General of the militia, and Governor of Massachusetts. It was at this period that the town of

Charlestown was set on fire by the British, and the whole burnt, consisting of about 500 buildings.

A British officer, said, "the Americans fought like *Devils*." The troops at the rail fence were closely engaged with a column of the British troops when those of the redoubt were obliged to retreat. They fought with great bravery and hitherto prevented the advance of the enemy, whose plan was to force their way and turn this flank of the provincials. Here the New Hampshire men under Colonels Stark and Read, and the Connecticut men under Captains Knowlton, Chester, Clark, and Lieutenant Grosvenor, gave proofs of a firmness and courage which richly entitled them to the glory of a victory. According to the statement of several persons who were in this battle, Putnam and Prescott kept in the rear of the provincials as they retreated, and were much exposed to the fire of the British troops who pursued them to Bunker's Hill.

Major General Warren, at the time he was killed, was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

The author of the present sketch of the battle of Bunker's Hill, continued in the service until the term of his enlistment expired, which was early in 1776. At the expiration of the term of his first enlistment he again enlisted for the further term of one year, the first part of which, he was stationed in or near Boston, and the latter part in New Jersey where he was twice slightly wounded, and received his discharge at Bound Brook in January 1777. Early in '77 he again enlisted in what was then called the continental or regular service, was elected an orderly sergeant, marched immediately for Ticonderoga, arrived there in April of the same year and remained there until July following, was in the disastrous though probably unavoidable retreat of St. Clair's army to Stillwater, on the 17th of September, and on the 6th of October was in the battles fought at Bemis' heights led on by the intrepid and brave (though afterwards infamous) Arnold. Soon after the battle of the 6th of October, Burgoyne surrendered, and the brigade to which the author belonged, and the greatest part of the New England troops, marched to a place called Valley Forge, about eighteen miles from Philadelphia. In June 1778 he marched to New Jersey, he was in the battle fought at Monmouth on the 20th of the same month, was also at West Point when Arnold deserted the American army, and at the siege of Yorktown, Oct. 1781.

It may not be improper to remark, that of 34 boys, who volunteered under Captain B. Hastings five were killed and eight wounded, and the author was one of the latter. He was born at Princeton, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Jan. 19, 1760.

Presuming it will be acceptable to all, I take the liberty of closing with the remarks of the Hon. Daniel Webster in his speech in the Senate of the United States.

"NEW ENGLAND'S DEAD."

"I shall enter on no encomium upon Massachusetts—she needs none. There she is, behold her and judge for yourselves. There is her history. The world knows it by heart. The past, at least, is secure. There is Boston and Concord, and Lexington and Bunker's Hill, and there they will remain forever. The bones of her sons, falling in the great struggle for independence, now lie mingled with the soil of every State, from New England to Georgia, and there they will remain forever."

Henderson, Jefferson County, New York, June, 1830.

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